

Bro. James dined with a large company at the President's in the afternoon.

Your acquaintance, Lieut. Russell is here, and desirous to be restored to the Naval reserve.

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There is no telling when Congress will adjourn. In the course of this week I presume more can be ascertained on the subject. There are various speculations about the President's course on the Bank question, but it is not known what he will do.

I fear I may not be able to be with you for a few weeks. Write me frequently, however, & if you desire I will come.

My blessing on my children.

*From Priestley H. Mangum.*⁶²

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Hillsboro',

July 7th, 1841.

I drop you these lines for information. Appearances in Congress have caused me much uneasiness, and I am apprized that a correct estimate of them can be made only by those whose position at Washington affords an insight into the *under current* of the great stream of events. Why is it that, even in the Senate, there is so much diversity of sentiment upon *Whig measures*, which we all thought in this Country commanded the undivided support of the friends of Gen'l Harrison? Do I correctly perceive, as I think I do, a Cabinet attempt (I mean the Webster portion of the Cabinet) to thwart and postpone Mr. Clay upon the subject of the Bank, under the sinister pretence of going for the only plan of a Bank which Tyler will sanction, & thereby keep together and impart strength to the Whig party, whose success would otherwise be destroyed by the President's veto? When in fact and in truth, the postponement of Mr. Clay is a sweeter morsel than the triumph of our principles to some Gentlemen?

Or is it, that Ewing's plan of a Bank with its Democratic feature of establishing Branches whereby the Constitutional power is virtually surrendered, really is the best? If I were a Whig Congress, I fear I should act the despot. For I am much inclined to think,

⁶² Priestley Hinton Mangum, of Orange, a graduate of the university, lawyer, teacher, member of the commons, 1832. He was an elder brother of Willie P. Mangum.